

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 4. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1-5, replaces the original sheet, including Figs. 1-5. In Fig. 4, the COMPARATOR Block is labeled with a reference numeral 102.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 8, 13, 20, 27-30, and 35-49 are pending in the present application. In the Office action dated April 21, 2006, the abstract of the disclosure was objected to under M.P.E.P. § 608.01(b). The drawings were objected to because Figure 4 is missing a reference numeral. Claims 14, 20, 26 and 30 were objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 14, line 1, “9” should read as –8-. Claim 20, line 3, “the device” should read as –the memory device-. Claim 26, line 1, “26” should read as –25-. Claim 30, line 1 “200” should read as –20--. Claims 1-2, 5, 8-11, 20-22 and 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,438,057 to Ruckerbauer (“Ruckerbauer”). Claims 3-4, 6-7, 12-19 and 23-26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Objection to the Abstract

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the first sentence of it recites “[t]he present invention is generally directed to.” Accordingly, the abstract of the disclosure has been amended to conform to the examiner’s suggestions and now recites “[a] system and method for communicating information to and from memory devices.” Therefore, the objection to the abstract of the disclosure should be withdrawn.

Objection to the Drawings

Figure 4 was objected to because the COMPARATOR BLOCK was not labeled with a reference numeral. Figure 4 has been corrected so that the COMPARATOR BLOCK is labeled with a reference numeral 102.

Claim Objections

The objections to claims 14, 20, 26, and 30 are moot in view of their cancellation or in view of the amendments to correct the typographical errors in the as-filed application.

Claims and Rejections

The Examiner is thanked for his careful examination of the present application and for his indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant is therefore amending claims in the present application in order to conform with the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject

matter. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent claim 3. Claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter of former dependent claim 12. Claim 20 has been amended to include the subject matter of former dependent claim 23. New claim 35 has been added, which includes the subject matter of former independent claim 1 and former dependent claim 4. New claim 37 has been added, which includes the subject matter of former independent claim 8 and former dependent claim 14. New claim 43 has been added, which includes the subject matter of former independent claim 20 and former dependent claim 24. It is understood, however, that the applicant does not agree with the Examiner's rejections based on the cited references, and is amending claims solely for the purpose of expediting the issuance of the allowable subject matter. Applicant therefore reserves the right to include any of the present claims, in non-amended form, in any continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 903-8787 if he has any questions or believes that a telephone conference would expedite allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

Postcard

Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

Appendix (Figure 4 Annotated, Figures 1-5 Replacement)

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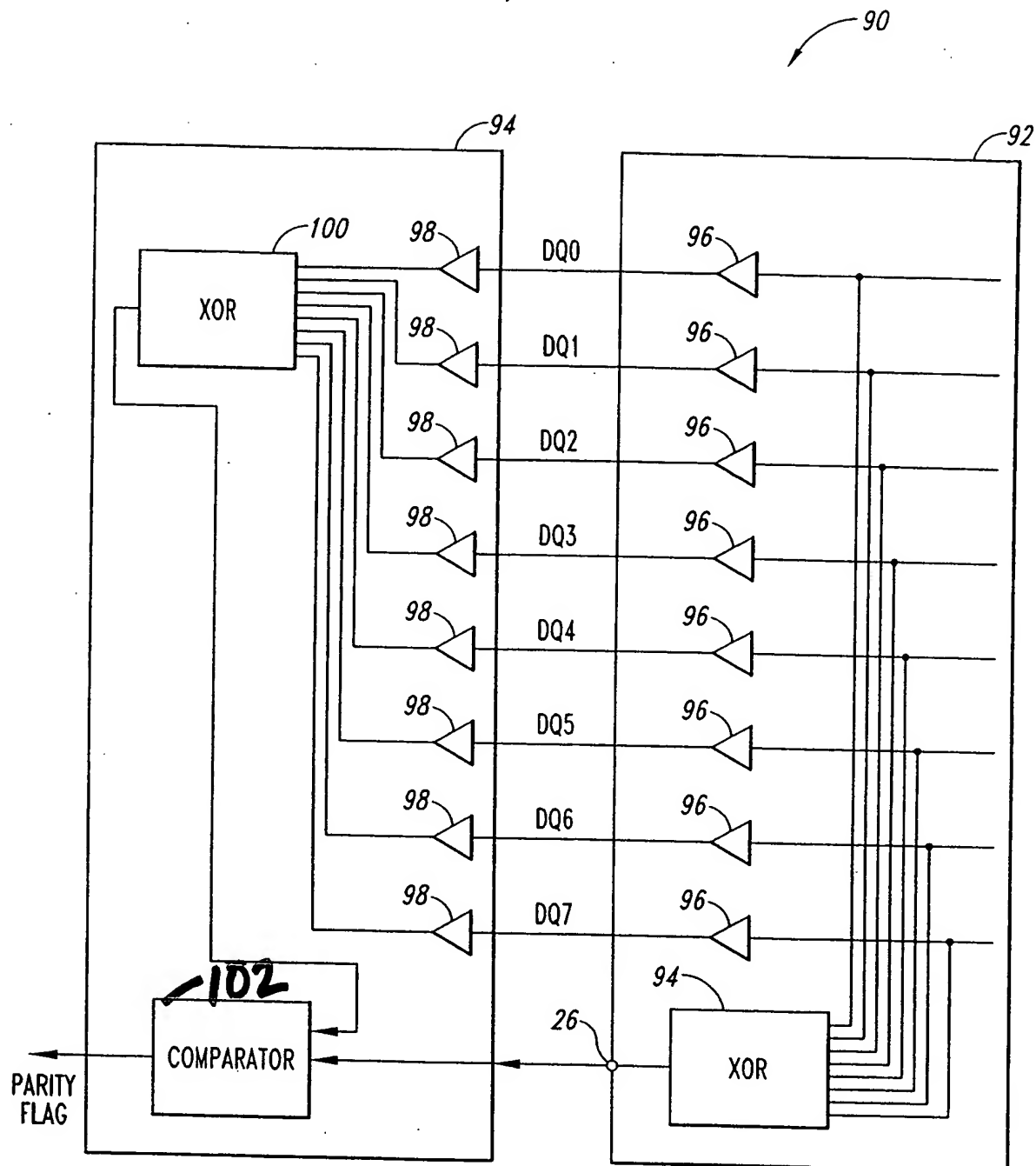


Fig. 4